

Activity - Build a Roadmap

Instructions

1. Identify Thesis Contributions

Write 1–3 tentative thesis contributions. These can be:

- Fully formed ideas, or
- Research directions you're interested in developing

For each contribution, write one sentence outlining what new knowledge, method, or understanding the contribution would provide.

2. Map Contributions to Papers

For each contribution, answer the following:

- Planned paper(s):
 - How many papers could reasonably come from this contribution? (e.g., 1–2)
 - What would the core idea of one paper be?
- Timeline (rough estimate):
 - When might you submit this paper?
 - e.g., “Fall of Year 3,” “6–9 months after proposal,” “Exploratory / TBD”
- Potential venues (best guess):
 - List 1–2 plausible venues
 - Conferences, journals, or workshops
 - It's okay if you're unsure or unfamiliar — name likely communities

3. Check Alignment and Scope

Answer the following reflection questions:

- Do all contributions support a single coherent thesis?
- Does the number of papers feel:
 - Too ambitious?
 - Too thin?
 - Reasonable for a PhD?
- Which contribution feels highest risk?
- Which paper feels most feasible early?

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